

Appln. No.: 09/820,401
Amendment Dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2004

MATP-601US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above identified application.

Claims 1, 7, 11 and 16 were objected to for informalities. These informalities have been corrected in amended claims 1, 7, 11 and 16.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 16, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Lange et al. and Boll. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1 and 16. In particular, neither Lange et al., Boll, nor their combination disclose or suggest determining if television signals include closed caption information and then either using the closed caption information if the television signals include closed caption information or converting the speech signals to text if the television signals do not include closed caption information. Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at paragraph [0039] and Figure 3.

The Lange et al. application concerns a method and system for providing automated captioning for AV signals. Lange discloses a method for displaying text information corresponding to a speech portion of audio signals of an audio video (AV) signal as a closed caption on a video display device. Lange et al. do not disclose or suggest processing television signals or determining if the television signals include closed caption information and then using the closed caption information if the television signals include closed caption information or converting the speech signals to text if the television signals do not include closed caption information.

Boll discloses suppressing acoustic noise in speech using a spectral subtraction method. Boll does not disclose or suggest determining if television signals include closed caption information and then using the closed caption information if the television signals include closed caption information or converting the speech signals to text if the television signals do not include closed caption information. Because neither Lange et al. nor Boll. disclose this limitation of claims 1 and 16, claims 1 and 16 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al. and Boll.

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Claims 2 and 4, include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend and claims 17 and 19 include all the features of claim 16 from which they depend. Therefore, claims 2, 4, 17 and 19 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al. and Boll.

Claims 3 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Lange et al., Boll, and Ortega et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1 and 16. In particular, neither Lange et al., Boll, Ortega et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest determining if television signals include closed caption information and then using the closed caption information if the television signals include closed caption information or converting the speech signals to text if the television signals do not include closed caption information.

Lange et al. and Boll are described above. The patent to Ortega et al. concerns a transcription system for multiple speakers, which establishes the identification of the speaker and translates his or her speech. Ortega et al. disclose a method wherein the step of parsing the speech portion into discrete speech components includes the step of employing a speaker independent model to provide individual words as the parsed speech components. (See col. 4, lines 35-48). Ortega et al. do not disclose or suggest determining if television signals include closed caption information and then using the closed caption information if the television signals include closed caption information or converting the speech signals to text if the television signals do not include closed caption information.

Claim 3 includes all the features of claim 1 from which it depends and claim 18 includes all the features of claim 16 from which it depends. Therefore, claims 3 and 18 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al., Boll and Ortega et al.

Claims 5, 11, 12, 14 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Lange et al., Boll, and Ditzik. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1, 11 and 16. In particular, neither Lange et al., Boll, Ditzik, nor their combination disclose or suggest determining if television signals include closed caption information and then either using the closed caption information if the television signals include closed caption information or converting the speech signals to text if the television signals do not include closed caption information according to claims 1 and 16. Further, Lange et al.,

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Boll, Ditzik, nor their combination disclose or suggest a processor which determines if the television program signals include closed caption information and enables the use of captioned information if the television program signals include the closed caption information or enables a speech recognition module to convert the speech signals to text if the television program signals do not include the closed caption information according to claim 11.

Lange et al. and Boll are described above. The patent to Ditzik concerns integrated handwriting and speed recognition systems. Ditzik discloses a method wherein the step of parsing the speech portion into discrete speech components includes the step of employing a speaker dependent model to provide phonemes as the parsed speech components. (See col. 3, lines 17-19 and col. 3, lines 52-59). Ditzik does not disclose or suggest determining if television signals include closed caption information and then either using the closed caption information if the television signals include closed caption information or converting the speech signals to text if the television signals do not include closed caption information. Because neither Lange et al., Boll, nor Ditzik disclose the limitations of claim 11, claim 11 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al, Boll and Ditzik.

Claim 5 includes all the features of claim 1 from which it depends, claims 12 and 14 include all the features of claim 11 from which they depend and claim 20 includes all the features of claim 16 from which it depends. Therefore, claims 5, 12, 14 and 20 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al., Boll and Ortega et al.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Lange et al., Boll, Ditzik and Ortega et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 11. In particular, as described above, neither Lange et al., Boll, Ditzik, Ortega et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest a processor which determines if the television program signals include closed caption information and enables the use of captioned information if the television program signals include the closed caption information or enables a speech recognition module to convert the speech signals to text if the television program signals do not include the closed caption information. Claim 13 includes all the features of claim 11 from which it depends. Therefore, claim 13 is also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Lange et al., Boll, Ditzik and Ortega et al.

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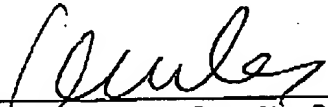
Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 6 and 15 would be allowable if amended to be independent and to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Because, as described above, claims 1 and 5 and claims 11 and 14 are in condition for allowance, no amendment to claims 6 and 15 is needed.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 7-10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objection of claim 7. Because, as described above, claim 7 has been amended to overcome the objection, claims 7-10 are in condition for allowance.

The prior art made of record but not applied has been considered but does not affect the patentability of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to claims 1, 6-11, 15 and 16 and the rejection of claims 1-5, 11-14 and 16-20.

Respectfully submitted,


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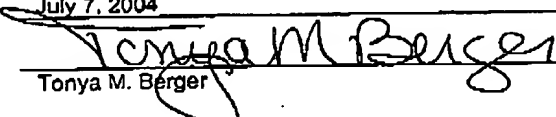
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